

interconnections, fewer cables, and fewer moving parts to fail, resulting in increased uptime and reduced ongoing support costs.

[0078] Consolidated network equipment greatly simplifies installation and ongoing maintenance. The present invention includes an elegant, intuitive, centralized management application, COREVISTA WEB(TM), that enables installation in less than 15 minutes. Thus, the administrator can deploy units without needing to complete multiple, vendor-specific, certified training programs as will be explained. The present invention even offers self-configuring features on base units.

[0079] The flexible allocation of network resources is made possible because software is used to make all connections between network devices installed in the present invention. Any single or combination of virtual or physical ports can be instantly reassigned new IP services on a port-by-port basis. This enables the administrator to reconfigure IP services as needs change, and without taking down any part of the network. This aspect is especially critical to large Enterprises, and almost any SP and LEC.

**[0080]** One of the greatest advantages of the present invention is the use of open IP standards. Proprietary technologies are often initially attractive because lower costs can be achieved for a specific function.

5 Disadvantageously, however, proprietary technologies often limit selection of complementary equipment, leaving the network function isolated and unexpandable. Additionally, proprietary equipment can preclude the use of certain IP services completely, and can require an administrator to provide specialized training for staff. Thus, hidden

10 costs add up and quickly surpass any initial savings.

**[0081]** The present invention delivers a truly open architecture communications platform specifically designed to enable rapid deployment of "best in class" applications and value-added services for mission-critical

15 communications, while preserving existing infrastructure.

The present invention also enables the administrator to offer any IP service through the Enterprise, SP or LEC.

**[0082]** Configuring the Open IP Services Platform 30 can be performed in various ways. To drag and drop icons representing the network components requires that the administrator access the Open IP Services Platform using

the COREVISTA WEB(TM) configuration program. It is envisioned that a different version will enable the administrator to configure what is already loaded in the Open IP Services Platform 30, but not to design the  
5 layout. In other words, it enables the administrator to configure what is already loaded, but not change the layout.

10 [0083] When performing configuration over a network, it is noted that SSH is provided for a secure and encrypted configuration session.

15 [0084] One useful feature is that the configuration can be stored on and loaded from a PC card. Thus, if an SP or LEC needs twenty identical Open IP Services Platforms 30, only one has to be manually configured using the COREVISTA WEB(TM) configuration program. The configuration is then stored on a PC card that can be duplicated. The administrator then only has to insert the PC card into a non-configured Open IP Services Platform 30, and load the configuration.

20 [0085] Both the REACTOR(TM) and the REACTORPRO(TM) Open IP Services Platforms include a host of standard software applications right out of the box. These software